

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A pretreating agent for electroless plating comprising a noble metal soap of naphthenic acid or a fatty acid having 5 to 25 carbon atoms and further comprising a silane coupling agent having a functional group with metal capturing ability in the molecule.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The pretreating agent for electroless plating according to ~~Claim 2~~claim 1, wherein the silane coupling agent is a silane coupling agent obtained by reacting an azole compound or amine compound with an epoxysilane compound.

4. (Currently Amended) The pretreating agent for electroless plating according to ~~Claim 2~~claim 1, wherein the functional group with metal capturing ability is an imidazole group.

5. (Previously Presented) The pretreating agent for electroless plating according to Claim 1, wherein the noble metal soap is a palladium soap.

6. (Previously Presented) The pretreating agent for electroless plating according to Claim 1, wherein the noble metal soap is palladium naphthenate, palladium neodecanate or palladium octylate.

7. (Previously Presented) An ink composition comprising the pretreating agent for electroless plating according to Claim 1.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (New) The pretreating agent for electroless plating according to claim 1, additionally comprising an organic solvent.

12. (New) An electroless plating method comprising the step of pre-treating an object to be plated with the pretreating agent of claim 1 and then performing electroless plating of the object.

13. (New) A plated object obtained by the electroless plating method of claim 12.

14. (New) An electroless plating method comprising the step of pre-treating an object to be plated with the ink composition of claim 7 and then performing electroless plating of the object.

15. (New) The electroless plating method according to claim 14, wherein pre-treatment of the object with the ink composition comprises drawing with an inkjet.

16. (New) A plated object obtained by the electroless plating method of claim 14.